1854MNRAS..14R..94.

and the General Catalogue, required a slight alteration, a table is inserted after the Catalogue above mentioned, containing the small corrections which should be applied to the mean places of the stars in the General Catalogue in consequence of this modification of the elements of reduction.

M. Struve concludes his great work with a comparison of the places of 140 stars which are common to the General Catalogue, and to Argelander's Catalogue of 560 stars, which, like the former, is reduced to the epoch 1830·0.

R. G.

The *Berliner Jahrbuch* for 1856 has recently been published. The Appendix to it contains a translation of Adams' Paper on the Corrections of the Moon's Parallax, as given in the Appendix to the *Nautical Almanac* for the same year. There are also two papers by M. Encke, the Superintendent of the Ephemeris. One of these includes a set of tables for computing the right ascension and declination of a celestial body from its longitude and latitude, and *vice versâ;* the other contains an investigation of the degree of approximation which is attained in calculating the orbit of a comet by the method of Olbers. The Appendix also contains an ephemeris of each of the newly discovered planets either for 1854 or 1855, and a synopsis of the elements of their orbits.

With respect to the drawing of *Saturn* by Mr. Dawes, which appears in the *Monthly Notice* for November 1853, it may be as well to mention that the engraver has made the shading of the belts too deep, and that the dark line upon the inner bright ring should have been omitted (the engraver having been misled by what appeared to be a faint line on the original drawing), as no such indication of a subdivision of the ring is referred to by Mr. Dawes in his account of the appearance of the planet.

On the Aerolites of August 1853.

(*Extract of a Letter from M. Duprez to M. Quetelet, dated Ghent, Aug.* 12, 1853.*)

"During the nights of the 9th and 10th of August, and in a part of the sky which was entirely free of clouds, comprised between NN.E. and S.E., which might be about a sixth, I observed 29 aerolites during the first evening, and 37 during the second. They were distributed as follows:—

	h m		h	9th.	10th.
From	9 50	to	10	3	2
	10 0		11	12	15
	12 0		12	14	20

"Among the aerolites observed on the 9th there is one, the apparition of which has been accompanied by circumstances which

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* Bulletin de l'Académie des Sciences de Belgique.

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I consider to be worthy of mention. This aerolite appeared about $10^h 35^m$ in the vicinity of the head of the Great Bear. It presented the aspect of a globe of fire, and was unaccompanied by a train of light. In brightness and dimensions it resembled the planet *Jupiter.* Its motion was sufficiently slow. During its apparition it diminished in brightness to such a degree that for an instant it disappeared completely, as if concealed by a kind of whitish smoke, which detached itself from it. It might have been said that the meteor in question experienced a veritable combustion.

" It appears from the directions of the various aerolites on both nights that the predominant direction was from N.E. to S.W. I directed my attention to the existence of a centre of radiation, and found, as in the case of former apparitions, that this centre was situate between the constellations of *Perseus* and *Cassiopeia;* for, of the total number of 66 aerolites, which were observed, 50 appeared to me to diverge sensibly from a point included between these two constellations."

Extract of a Letter from M. Otto Struve to the Astronomer Royal, dated 1854, *Jan.* 17.*

" Your letters have been duly received, and gave us particular satisfaction, especially on account of the prospect you hold out therein, that the astronomical part of the suggested Great Arc of Longitude might be executed in England and France without serious difficulty. On our part the operations go on very regularly. It has been decided, only a few days since, that the geodetic part, under the direction of the Imperial General Staff, shall be finished in the course of the present year, so far that our triangles shall have reached a point on the Caspian Sea, on the parallel of Marennes. It then remains only for the next year, 1855, to execute a chronometrical expedition between Karatz, Saratov, and the point in question on the Caspian Sea, to finish altogether our part of the Arc of Longitude. One year later (1856), most probably a proposed triangulation along the river Volga will also be finished, and then we shall have, for control, a second arc of longitude between Saratov and your Valentia, which, perhaps, might prove the more important, as probably the triangulations along the northern arc will be found more trustworthy and accurate than those which pass through the Southern countries of Europe.

" My father is at present actively engaged with the arrangements for the publication of the materials furnished by the measures of the great Russo-Scandinavian Meridian Arc. I think the printing will begin within two weeks; but, on account of the great quantity of materials, it will not be finished before the next year. On this

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* The letter, of which the above is an extract, was received from the Astronomer Royal just as the last sheet of the *Monthly Notice* was about to be printed off. Additional extracts from it will be inserted in the *Monthly Notice* for March.— R. G.

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